

Message Text

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ORIGIN ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 CCO-00 RSC-01 SS-15 SSO-00 ISO-00 PA-01 PRS-01

AF-04 EA-06 EUR-12 NEA-06 IO-10 USIA-06 CIAE-00

INR-05 NSAE-00 /078 R

DRAFTED BY ARA/PAF:WSDIEDRICH:STT

APPROVED BY ARA/PAF:RVFIMBRES

ARA:WGBOWDLER (INFO)

S/S:JPMOFFAT

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P 112310Z NOV 74 ZFF4

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY QUITO PRIORITY

INFO ALL AMERICAN REPUBLIC DIPLOMATIC POSTS PRIORITY

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TODEP 063

E.O. 11652, N/A

TAGS: EC, PFOR

SUBJECT: NOON PRESS BRIEFING -- CUBA, ARGENTINA AND THE
U.S.

QUITO PLEASE PASS BRIAN BELL

1. FOLLOWING GUIDANCE PREPARED FOR DEPT. SPOKESMAN AT NOON
PRESS BRIEFING, MONDAY, NOVEMBER 11. NO QUESTION ASKED
AT BRIEFING. HOWEVER, STATE HAS USED THE FOLLOWING ON
BACKGROUND AND IF-ASKED:

2. Q-IS IT TRUE THAT THE UNITED STATES IS GOING TO ABSTAIN
ON THE RESOLUTION BEING DRAFTED AT THE QUITO MEETING OF
FOREIGN MINISTERS?

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3. A-OUR DELEGATION HAS INFORMED US THAT VARIOUS FORMULAS

FOR A RESOLUTION ARE UNDER ACTIVE CONSIDERATION. IT WOULD BE PREMATURE TO MAKE ANY ANNOUNCEMENT ON HOW THE U.S. WILL VOTE.

4. Q-ALTHOUGH THE U.S. REFUSES TO REVEAL HOW IT WILL VOTE AT QUITO ON THE SANCTIONS AGAINST CUBA, IT IS REPORTED THAT SOME OBSERVERS SEE A SOFTENING IN THE U.S. ATTITUDE. THEY POINT TO THE U.S. HAVING OVERLOOKED TWO TECHNICAL VIOLATIONS BY ARGENTINA OF THE SANCTIONS: (1) ARGENTINE SHIPS BEGAN CARRYING CARGO TO CUBA IN APRIL, YET THE U.S. MILITARY ASSISTANCE GROUP HAS NOT BEEN RECALLED FROM BUENOS AIRES; AND (2) THE U.S. ALLOWED THE REFUELING AT BALTIMORE OF AN ARGENTINE SHIP THAT HAD CALLED AT CUBA. ANY COMMENT?

5. A-FIRSTLY, THERE IS NO REQUIREMENT, LEGISLATIVE OR OTHERWISE, THAT THE U.S. WITHDRAW ITS MILITARY ASSISTANCE GROUP FROM AN OAS MEMBER-STATE WHOSE SHIPS CARRY CARGO TO CUBA (AS ARGENTINE SHIPS HAVE DONE).

6. AS FOR THE REFUELING OF SHIPS ENGAGED IN THE CUBA TRADE, U.S. EXPORT CONTROL REGULATIONS, ADMINISTERED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, PROHIBIT THIS WITHOUT A SPECIFIC LICENSE. WE ARE UNAWARE THAT AN ARGENTINIAN SHIP WHICH HAD CARRIED CARGO TO CUBA WAS LATER REFUELED AT BALTIMORE.

7. IF PRESSED -- Q-WHAT ABOUT MILITARY ASSISTANCE?

8. A-THE PROVISIONS OF THE FOREIGN ASSISTANCE ACT CONCERNED WITH THE CARRIAGE OF CARGO TO CUBA APPLY ONLY TO GRANT ASSISTANCE. THERE IS NO GRANT ASSISTANCE TO ARGENTINA AT THIS TIME. KISSINGER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS CONFERENCES, TODEP 63
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 11 NOV 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: cunninfx
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974STATE248575
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: WSDIEDRICH:STT
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740324-1149
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19741152/aaaabsmk.tel
Line Count: 94
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN ARA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: cunninfx
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 02 JUL 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <02 JUL 2002 by boyleja>; APPROVED <17 MAR 2003 by cunninfx>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: NOON PRESS BRIEFING -- CUBA, ARGENTINA AND THE U.S.
TAGS: PFOR, EC
To: QUITO
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005